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CIA TARGET?

An SWL from New Britain, Connecticut, whose recters to Radio Havana Cuba apparently attracted the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency, has filed suit in federal court to force the CIA to let him peek at the dossier compiled on him.

John Lukman is a 22-year-old chemical plant worker who has been an SWL since 1969.

Under the 1975 Freedom of Information Act, a number of SWLs have applied to the CIA to determine if they have been under surveilance because of their listening activities. Most, it seems, have not. But in a few cases, such as Lukman's, the CIA has replied that, yes, it had a file.

The CIA confirmed that it had a file on Lukman, dating to March 1972, but it declined to divulge the contents of that file, alleging it is "properly classified" and to reveal what it contained would "jeopardize relations with a foreign power."

So far, pending the outcome of his case, Lukman has not seen his file. But he has a pretty good idea of what it contains.

According to an Associated Press story, Lukman has done what most shortwave listeners do-send reception reports to those foreign shortwave stations heard.

"One of the very first letters I wrote was to Radio Havana Cuba," Lukman states. Over the years he has written at least 20 times to Havana. He also reports to other stations, such as the BBC and the Voice of America.

But, Michael Graham. Lukman's attorney, speculates, it is the Radio Havana Cuba reports that caused the fuss. Graham guesses that Canada, not Cuba, may be the foreign power with whom relations would be jeopardized.

"One might hope that ... the CIA has better things to do ..."

Graham is quoted in the AP story as saying that since mail destined for Cuba has been routed via Canada, if the CIA is or has been "intercepting such mail for a foreign government, it might jeopardize relations."

A midwestern DXer, Gerry Dexter of Lake Geneva, Wis., several years ago queried the CIA about a possible file on him. In time the CIA responded that it did have a Dexter file but in that case sent copies of the contents to the DXer. It consisted of copies of envelopes that had contained Radio Moscow QSL cards, sent a number of years earlier.

One might hope that today the CIA has better things!
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SWL=Short Wave Listener